REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed

February 9, 2004. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 – 3, 5 – 8, 10 and

20 - 23 remain pending. In particular, Applicant has added claims 20 – 23, has amended

claims 1 – 3, 5 – 8 and 10 and has canceled claims 4, 9, and 11 – 19 without prejudice,

waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant has canceled claims 4, 9 and 11 - 19 merely to reduce the

number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the

present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these

canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to

dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the

application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 - 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

as being unpatentable over *Carter* in view of *Cohen*. With respect to claims 4, 9 and 11 – 19,

Applicant has canceled these claims and respectfully asserts that the rejection as to these

claims has been rendered moot. With respect to the remaining claims, Applicant respectfully

asserts that the asserted prior art is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering obvious these

claims.

With respect to claim 1, that claim recites:

> 1.   (Currently Amended) A method for transparent file proxying, the
> method comprising:
>   coupling a plurality of computing devices to a local area network, each
> of said plurality of computing devices including a local memory element
> containing a plurality of files, at least one of said plurality of computing device
> coupled to a wide area network;
>   coupling a remote memory element to said wide area network, said
> remote memory element configured to maintain a copy of the first file selected

from said plurality of files contained in the local memory elements of said plurality of computing devices;

    said at least one of said plurality of computing devices to a wide area communication network;

    coupling a remote computing device to said remote memory element;

    intercepting, in said remote memory element, an Internet Protocol (IP) communication message from said remote computing device, said IP communication message corresponding to a request from a first user to access a requested file; and

    providing information corresponding to said copy of said first file to said remote computing device from said remote memory element without said IP communication message traversing said wide area communication network and said local area network if the first user is authorized to access said requested file and if said requested file corresponds to said first file.
(Emphasis Added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited art, either individually or in combination, does not teach, disclose or reasonably suggest at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejection is improper and that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 2, 3, 5, 21 and 23 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 1, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that also can serve as an independent basis for patentability. For example, claim 5 recites:

    5.   The method of claim 1, wherein, if the first user is authorized access, said remote memory element updates said copy of said first file in response to receiving information corresponding to a modification of said first file from said remote computing device.

Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited art does not teach or reasonably suggest, either individually or in combination, at least the features/limitations of claim 5. Therefore, it is respectfully asserted that at least claim 5 is in condition for allowance.

Further, claim 21 recites:

    21.   The method of claim 1, wherein, in determining whether the first user is authorized access to said file, ***if the user is authorized access to said file but a copy of said file is not stored locally by said remote memory device, said remote computing device forwards said IP communication***

message via said wide area communication network and said local area network such that said remote computing device is able to retrieve a copy of said first file.
(Emphasis Added).

Applicant respectfully assert that the cited art does not teach or reasonably suggest, either individually or in combination, at least the additional features/limitations emphasized above in claim 21. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 21 also is currently in condition for allowance.

Claim 6 recites:

> 6.   A system for transparent file proxying, comprising:
> a local network to which is coupled a plurality of computing devices, at least one of said plurality of computing devices including the ability to route communication packets to said remaining plurality of computing devices, each of said plurality of computing devices including a memory element containing a plurality of files;
>   a communication network coupled to said at least one of said plurality of computing devices;
>   a remote memory element coupled to said communication network;
>   a remote computing device connected to said remote memory element, said remote memory element configured to intercept an Internet Protocol (IP) communication message from said remote computing device, said remote memory element configured to maintain a copy of a first file selected from said plurality of files contained in the memory elements of said plurality of computing devices; and
>   *wherein said remote memory element is configured to provide information corresponding to said copy of the first file to said remote computing device in response to said remote memory element:*
>   *intercepting said IP communication message from said remote computing device,*
>   *determining that the first user is authorized access, and*
>   *determining that said file corresponds to said first file,*
> *said IP communication message corresponding to a request from the first user to access said first file from one of said plurality of computing devices connected to said local network, thus providing information corresponding to said copy of the first file to said remote computing device without said IP communication message traversing said communication network and said local area network.*
> (Emphasis Added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited art, either individually or in combination, does not teach, disclose or reasonably suggest at least the features/limitations emphasized

above in claim 6. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejection is improper and that claim 6 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 7, 8, 10 and 22 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 6, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance.

Newly-Added Claims

Upon entry of the amendments in this Response, Applicant has added new claims 20 – 23. Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are in condition for allowance. Specifically, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims are in condition for allowance for at least the reason that they are dependent claims that incorporate the features/limitations of their respective independent claims, the allowability of which is discussed above.
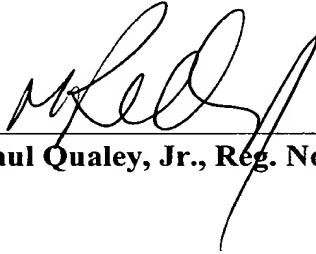
Prior Art Made of Record

The prior art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above,

Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed,

rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1 − 3, 5 − 8, 10 and

20 - 23 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the

present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion

of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the

Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

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___Stephanie Riley___
Signature

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